

Dalham and Dunstall Green Parish Council

March 2026





Spring Litter Pick – volunteers wanted

The parish council will conduct its usual spring litter pick at the end of March to collect rubbish from the verges of roads around the parish. Could anyone wishing to help out please meet at the Village Hall at 10am on Saturday 28th March, wearing suitably sturdy clothing and footwear. Equipment (hi-vis, gloves, bags and pickers) will be provided.

Further daffodil planting



Villagers may have noticed that there are quite a lot of additional bulbs appearing in the verges this year. This reflects efforts by volunteers last year and the year before to plant additional daffodils along the line of The Street, led by Councilor Wilkins-Smith. Many thanks to all those who took part, and we hope everyone enjoys the results of their efforts.

Community Policing Team for Dalham parish

Following renewed neighbourhood policing efforts in Suffolk, the parish now has a Community Policing Team, who will be regularly visiting the village. Our PCSO is Hannah Rogers, who attended a recent village coffee morning. Following this, PC Ollie Smith attended the parish council meeting on 14th January to hear about local crime concerns, including thefts from outbuildings and attempted thefts from cars, as well as speeding and drink driving incidents. The team can be contacted via the Suffolk Police website at www.suffolk.police.uk.

New signage to deter HGV traffic



Following the concerns raised in the public meeting held last April regarding heavy lorry traffic through the village, the parish council obtained consent from Suffolk Highways to additional signage to deter such vehicles from using The Street and Gazeley Road as a short cut to the A14.

Signs indicating this route is unsuitable for HGVs have now been installed at the junction of the Street and the B1085 next to the Affleck Arms and at the junction of the Gazeley Road with the Ashley Road at the northern end of the parish. Our thanks to Councilors Petchey and Corby for installing these, and to our County Councilor Andy Drummond for providing funding for them.

Replacement signage at Dunstall Green

After much lobbying, Suffolk Highways has assured us that the road signage at the junction of Dunstall Green Road and Denham Road should be replaced in the next month or so.

Community Speed Watch



The council is also pleased to announce that a Community Speed Watch group for the village is now operational. This is run by a group of volunteers from the village, under the co-ordination of Councilor Corby.

Several sessions have been undertaken at different locations in the village and the combination of these and the warning signs at the entrances to the village appears to have had some deterrent effect. More volunteers would enable the number of sessions to be increased further. If you can help, please contact Antonia King at clerk@dalhamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

New bench to be installed outside Dalham church

Villagers will have noted that the wooden bench dedicated to Dorothy and Wallace Beckham just outside the churchyard at St Mary's has become very decrepit in recent years and the parish council concluded that it should be replaced before it collapsed. We have bought a replacement bench with funding from our District Councilor Mike Chester, but have been unable to identify a contact point to advise the donors of the change. If anyone knows where the family can be reached, could they contact our parish clerk.

River Kennett water testing

The river Kennet comes under the RLCP (River Lark Catchment Partnership) and monthly water quality testing at Dalham, Moulton and Kentford is now being carried out by Councillor's Petchey and Corby. This testing data enables RLCP to reduce pollution, improve river flows, and mitigate flood risks. It is especially important because the Kennett is a rare and ecologically vital chalk stream, one of only 200 chalk streams in the world. Other than a few early phosphate recordings, levels recorded to date have been generally acceptable. More information is available from clerk@dalhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

New recycling bins

Everyone should now have received a new recycling bin (black with a green lid) in preparation for the launch in June of West Suffolk's new Better Recycling service. If you haven't yet received your new bin, you can contact West Suffolk Customer Services to be added to the log to get one. Telephone: 01284 757320 or email customer.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk. A detailed information pack and collection calendar will be sent to households in May with more guidance and advice before the full service commences in June. Please do not use these new bins until then, as they will not be emptied.

New parish councilor

We are delighted to announce that James Methven has agreed to join us as a new parish councilor, filling the vacancy left by Isobel Aylott's retirement. James moved to the village last year and he has also volunteered for our Community Speed Watch team, so is now fully engaged in village activities.

We still have one remaining vacancy on the councils, so if anyone is interested in the role, please speak to either the Chairman, John Riddell, or our parish clerk at the email given above.

Parish precept for 2026-2027

As a result of increases in verge cutting costs and in the salary of our hard-working parish clerk, the precept for the parish for the forthcoming year to April 2027 will rise by 4.3%, slightly above the rate of inflation. It is, however, below the overall increase for West Suffolk and as last year's increase was only 1.3% the rise over the last two years is still well below that of inflation.

The increase in absolute terms for a Band D property in Dalham for 2026-27 will be £2.77 a year, taking the annual parish charge for such a property to £66.73. The parish council's total precept for 2026-27 will be £8198, and the council's accounts can be accessed online at its website which is www.dalhamparishcouncil.gov.uk.